

Public Policy Forum

Monday, October 8, 2007

FIXING THE LEAKY PIPELINE: **Adult Education and Skills Training Can Improve** **Labor Market Success for Low-Income Adults**

9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Lansing Community College – West Campus
5708 Cornerstone Drive, Lansing, Michigan 48917

In today's global economy there is a significant mismatch between the jobs that are available, and the educational and skill levels of many Michigan workers. Increasingly, better-paying jobs require education or training beyond high school, and the skills they require are often represented by a credential such as a degree, license or certificate. Unfortunately, many adults have fallen through one or more of the many "leaks" in the educational and skill-building pipeline, and fall far short of acquiring such credentials.

Low-income adults are particularly disadvantaged when it comes to accessing the education and training programs, including post-secondary education. Lack of basic skills, scarcity of programs, work schedules, family responsibilities, and affordability of tuition represent significant barriers to improving the economic security of low-income workers and their families.

This policy forum will underscore the importance of education and training in today's economy and highlight successful policies, strategies and initiatives that can increase the ability of low-income adults to access needed education and training.

Presenters will include Lou Glazer, President, Michigan Future; **Jim Jacobs**, Director, Center for Workforce Policy, Macomb Community College and Associate Director for Community College Operations, Community College Research Center, Columbia University, New York; **Andy Levin**, Deputy Director, Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth; and **Julie Strawn**, Senior Policy Analyst, Workforce Development, Center for Law and Social Policy, Washington, D.C. The Forum facilitator will be **Larry Good**, Board Chair, Corporation for a Skilled Workforce.

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Michigan League for Human Services
Council for Labor & Economic Growth Low-Wage Worker Committee

PUBLIC POLICY FORUM: FIXING THE LEAKY PIPELINE – OCTOBER 8, 2007

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